

# Janelle's Page

Janelle Saffin MP

On the final day for Parliament for 2012, the Prime Minister introduced the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Bill into Parliament – something I have advocated for many years.

An NDIS will ensure people with disability, wherever they live, receive care and support based on their needs, and have choice and control over this support.

Like Medicare, this will be a Labor instrument of

fairness in our society.

I feel pleased and proud to be part of a political party that embraces such policies and such change that will afford people dignity, through the provision of appropriate self chosen care.

There is strong support for the NDIS across my electorate and I have had many local people ask me to do what I can to support it.

People like Tim, a disability support worker and a foster carer who says an NDIS will mean the children with disabilities that he has fostered can continue to be



Member for Page  
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supported in their adult life.

And also Angela and her son Ashton who I know very well. Ashton has a rare genetic condition with

a diagnosis that includes Microcephaly, Hypotonic Dystonia, Cerebral Palsy and Developmental delay.

As Angela said, "The NDIS means that no longer will it matter if and what labels Ashton has, just that he has significant physical and intellectual disability and requires support."

"It also means looking into the future. Ashton and we as his family, will have the opportunity to live with, modify and direct the support he receives tailoring it to his needs, likes and dreams in a timely fashion."

"The introduction of the NDIS will reduce the pressure Phil and I feel to provide and finance two lifetimes in one, ours while

we are here and Ashton's after we die."

Both Tim and Angela asked me to do two things - to tell their stories and to call on the Government to commit to the full roll out of the NDIS, and the \$5 billion to fund it, and I have taken their message to Canberra and I will keep making their case.

Tim and Angela's are just two stories but they represent the needs of many many families in our community.

As the Legislation was introduced, the late Jacob Baldwin was foremost in my thoughts. He was an extraordinary advocate who changed so many things for people with disability.

This legislation is part of his legacy.

The Bill will establish the NDIS Launch Transition Agency to work with people with disability to develop a personal plan that identifies their goals and aspirations, recognises the support they receive from family and friends, and provides a statement of the support they will receive through the NDIS.

The legislation also supports people to manage their own funding where they choose to do so.

You can comment on the Bill on the Your Say forum on the NDIS website.

The Legislation overview and further information is available at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

## Australia in the Asian Century

Mapping future interactions within our Asian neighbourhood is crucial for Australia as we recognise that we are positioned in the fastest growing region in the world.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has invited public submissions to the Australia in the Asian Century White Paper to encourage discussion about how Asia's growth is changing the world in which we live.

Local MP Justine Elliot said the Australia in the Asian Century White Paper would examine the opportunities for engagement and help the nation take advantage of them.

"This will undoubtedly be the Asian Century."

"The greatest opportunity for growth and development,

a significantly increasing number of consumers and the biggest export markets, are at our doorstep," said Justine.

The White Paper will set out a strategic framework that will be used to guide Australia through the Asian Century.

It will examine the domestic economic and social opportunities and challenges of the Asian Century for Australia, including: the opportunities for deepening engagement with Asia across the board, in the economy, through science and technology collaboration, clean energy, education, business-to-business and people-to-people links and culture.

Many Australian businesses and industries are already engaging with the

Asian region, and Justine said she would encourage them to submit a response to the paper.

"This is about sharing our knowledge so together we can take advantage of the opportunities that are available to us as a nation and within our immediate region."

"It is important that we think more about how we build stronger relations with our neighbours to benefit our community and strengthen our economic participation in our region, such as through increasing the number of languages we learn to include those of our Asian neighbours," said Justine.

Submissions are due by 26 February 2013 and more information is available at [www.asiancentury.dpmc.gov.au](http://www.asiancentury.dpmc.gov.au)

### Justine delivers more than \$130,000 to local volunteers

Local community organisations in Richmond are among 4,800 across Australia to benefit from the Federal Labor Government's \$16 million Volunteer Grants program.

Across Richmond, 37 organisations will share in more than \$130,000 to support the work of their volunteers.

Local MP Justine Elliot said the Federal Labor Government's investment was delivering much-needed support to local volunteers.

"We know that volunteers give their time, energy and expertise to support our community," said Justine.

The Volunteer Grants will support a range of local groups, like the Nimbin Headers Sports Club Inc.,



Member for Richmond  
107 Minjungbal Drive  
Tweed Heads South  
Phone 1300 720 675

which received \$4,889.

37 organisations will receive grants of between \$1000 and \$5000 to contribute to their volunteers' fuel costs and purchase much-needed equipment such as laptops, BBQs and shade structures.

Grants will also help

with the transport costs of volunteers with a disability, who are unable to drive and need to use public transport or taxis as part of their volunteering role.

"Volunteers continue to make a significant social and economic contribution to Australian society, contributing approximately \$14.6 billion to the not-for-profit sector each year."

"Across the country, more than 166,000 volunteers will benefit from the Volunteer Grants," said Justine.

"The Government is committed to supporting our army of volunteers and this year's volunteer grants will help them to undertake their selfless work in supporting local communities."

To find out more about Volunteer Grants 2012, visit: [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au) or phone 1800-183-374.

## Green scene

by Cr Vanessa Ekins

Councillors visited Nimbin last month for a community contact forum and we heard some interesting things.

First a vision for the next 20 years, with small scale multiple occupancies for aging Nimbin residents, a new road or alternative way to leave Sibley street for pedestrians and turning tourism from town drugs to hippy lifestyles.

Second the Nimbin Advisory Group and its input into water, waste, bridges, towers and Seven Sibley Street. They are keen for some male members. How the Chamber and NAG and Council talk together was



talked about and it seems that more talking is called for.

Third the piggery at Mountain Top produces odour, effluent, waste, water, noise and residents want buffers for school buses. Just how compatible is residential living with active farming?

Fourth the history of the water supply with suggestions from nine years ago, such as whether the water taken from the weir is warm or flowing still not implemented.

This was a good night's meeting. Consider coming along next time, meetings are fun and this one had moments of passion and some serious bits and even a few jokes.

It feels good to be in a room full of people talking about important stuff like the future of our city and villages and laughing together. Everyone agreed there needs to be more exchange of information.

Remember you have 11 council representatives and we all like people and love to chat about roads, rates, rubbish, car parks, trees, toilets, pools and sustainable house stuff. Our contacts are on Council's web site, so contact us!

Contact Vanessa by phone 6624-5500 or email: [vanessa.ekins@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vanessa.ekins@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

## Chamber Chat...

by Eugenie Stephans, Secretary

The Annual General Meeting of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce commenced with the president, Peter Wise, giving an overview of the past year's successes, achievements and delivering his report.

Treasurer Peter Hughes presented the annual financial report. The Chamber executive committee remains the same but for the vice-president's role, which goes to Marcelo Angulo.

Thank you to Bevan Whitney, and a warm welcome to Marcelo. Chamber has increased its membership by over 30%.

The 'Business after hours' events at the hotel have proven successful and there are great member benefits for small business from the alliance with the NSW Business Chamber.

Peter thanked the Chamber executive for a job well done throughout the year and those



who worked on projects and contributed, especially members volunteering their time to support the Nimbin businesses with good consequences for the community as well.

Assistance from Nat Meyer from the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre towards the development of the Nimbin Murals Restoration Project draft strategic plan has led to the council allocating Heritage grant funding for the murals. Some of the mural restorations are in process and other property owners are encouraged to take up this opportunity now.

Nimbin's first working bus trial departing Lismore at 5.30pm for Nimbin has been extended, thus enhancing transport for the Nimbin community.

The new committee has promised to continue to undertake the work of the chamber with commitment and enthusiasm.

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Tina Fuller (B. AppSc - Optometry) At Nimbin Community Centre



# From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Perhaps it's a sign of my advancing years or that we are moving faster as a society, but this year has simply flown! Here I am writing my last column for Good Times for 2012 and wondering where time has gone.

In preparing for this last column, I looked back at what I wrote for the Good Times last year. I noted that I was lamenting the loss of hope for a Margaret Olley Arts Centre in Lismore and wrote 'It will now be up to our community and a new Council to determine the way forward. It is my hope that although the MOAC is no longer a possibility, the funding and Council commitment for a new gallery will become a reality in the next term of Council'

I'm pleased to announce another opportunity for a new gallery has arisen. Council has given the General Manager the nod to lodge an Expression of Interest (EoI) for \$3m from Round 4 of the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Fund to refurbish C Block on the old Lismore High School site on Keen St as a storage and office space and to add a 400sqm exhibition space along with a green town square between it and the library.

I must stress that the EoI is only the first step. The Northern Rivers RDA will shortlist three projects from the expected applications by the region's Councils and other organizations. Those three projects will be invited to progress to the next stage of a full-blown application.

Councillors are supportive of the EoI on need and because Council could contribute the required matching funds from the sale of the existing gallery, savings from off-site storage of the current collection and other funds that would have no impact on our core budgets for roads and other priority areas.

## Roadside spraying

Council provides services to the community across a vast range of programs. One that has

raised concerns in the Nimbin and Rosebank areas recently has been the extent and timing of roadside vegetation spraying.

At its November Council meeting, Cr Vanessa Ekins raised these concerns via a Notice of Motion. As a result, Council will develop a roadside vegetation control procedure and report that to Council's Infrastructure Assets and Sustainable Environment Advisory Groups.

Council also wants contractors to undertake an induction program to ensure that work is carried out in accordance with our Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

## Lismore Neighbourhood Centre

As part of our budget review, Councillors in the last term of Council supported the investigation of the sale of some Council properties to both realise income and to save on continued maintenance costs.

Following a selective tender process, Council resolved to sell 14-18 Bounty Street to its current tenants, the Lismore Neighbourhood Centre (LNC) for a price to be negotiated by the General Manager of at least \$305,000.

The final negotiated price is \$325,000 + GST. The outcome is a win for both the community and Council and provides the LNC with security to apply for grants for the building itself and for the services it provides.

## Nimbin roadworks

Nimbin residents may have to cope with some traffic disruption from February 2013 as 400m of Nimbin Road from High St is reconstructed. The \$380,000 works are funded jointly by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS- formerly RTA) and Council and involve the construction of a much-needed footpath.

Another \$390,000 of works on 600m of Blue Knob Road north of Southwell Bridge are almost complete.

## Nimbin Forum

I took a week's leave and missed the recent Nimbin Council Forum that is always held



Brent McAlister, Lismore Council's Executive Director Sustainable Development (4th from left), addresses ratepayers at the Nimbin Council Forum in November

on the third Monday of November, but I understand that some Nimbin-ites did not receive notification of the meeting.

Council distributes notices via Australia Post and other Nimbin groups and included notification in the *GoodTimes* but it is obvious that there were some breakdowns in communication.

The date for next year's forum is November 18 so if you have your 2013 diary or calendar, make a note now.

## Imagine Lismore

By the time the *GoodTimes* hits the streets, the last of six Community Based Forums will have been held as part of the Imagine Lismore project to develop our ten year Community Strategic Plan.

I had the pleasure of welcoming delegates and attending the report-back session at Djanbung Gardens on November 9-10. The abundance of constructive ideas that resulted are very much aligned with the feedback we have received from the other forums and made it very clear that people who live in Nimbin, Koonorigan and places in between love where they live and want to safeguard

it from inappropriate development and ensure it retains its unique landscape and community feel.

In the new year, all the feedback will be distilled into a report that will go to the original citizens' jury for further consideration before it comes to Council and to the broader community.

## Greetings for the festive season and the New Year

Well, the end of the old year is nigh so it is appropriate that I thank you all for allowing me to tell you a little of Council's doings in 2012.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and holiday season however you celebrate it. I hope 2012 has been a good year for you and your loved ones. If it has been a difficult year, I hope that the New Year brings better health, happiness and well-being to your lives.

To all of you, see you in the New Year.

You can contact me via email, Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au phone 0402-651-394 or Twitter @Mayorjd if you wish.

## Simon says...

by Cr Simon Clough

The year seems to be racing towards its conclusion. I've always resisted the idea that time speeds up as one gets older, but...

Nimbin has had a few visits from Councillors and staff recently. The place based forum (PBF) of Imagine Lismore for Nimbin took place on Friday and Saturday 23rd and 24th November. Imagine Lismore is the community's strategic plan for the Council. Council has been really innovative with this plan and rather than having open forums which are so often dominated by a few loud voices we have used



which mimic the makeup of the population. As a result, the feedback from the forums is very considered and often innovative and revealing, showing a very balanced attitude to Council and its activities.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the presentation on Saturday as I had a long-standing commitment to be at my community's 40th birthday celebrations. All reports of the forum were

very positive from both the staff and the participants.

Councillors and staff were also present on Monday 26th for the annual Nimbin Forum. This was quite a small affair with reports on the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) and PBF. There was concern expressed about a development application for a piggery on Mountain Top Rd. Neighbours are worried about odour, effluent disposal and whether the DA means an increase in size.

The Nimbin 'walking trail' was also a topic of discussion along with the Sustainability Hub. Council is considering a grant application from the Regional Development Fund (RDF) to benefit these projects

Council is considering applying for funds to build

a 400sq metre art gallery beside C block opposite the library. The grant from the RDF would also be for developing the space between the library and C block as a major civic space; the "Heart of Lismore". There would also be major provision of new parking.

The project is feasible because Council can make major in-kind contributions through owning the land, refurbishing C block and utilising donations made to the gallery. Running costs we have been assured would be the same as the current gallery because of the limited size of the new building.

On the CSG front, Adam Guise has been running Non Violent Direct Action workshops at Dyraba and Grafton, and will be

doing our final workshop at Bangalow on Saturday 8th December 1pm to 4pm at the Catholic Hall, contact Amica at [amicasanday@gmail.com](mailto:amicasanday@gmail.com)

The workshops have been very well received and we have trained hundreds of people since we started.

The Environmental Defenders Office, EDO is in grave danger of losing its funding. The EDO is the only free environmental legal service in the state and we are very fortunate to have its only

regional office in Lismore. I got a motion through Council supporting continued funding. It would be great if you could support the EDO by getting info at [http://edo.org.au/edonsw/site/save\\_your\\_edo.php](http://edo.org.au/edonsw/site/save_your_edo.php) and taking action!

May you be well and happy  
- Simon

You can contact me on 0428-886-217 or [simonclough@internode.net](mailto:simonclough@internode.net) or Cr Simon Clough on Facebook or my blog: [www.crsimonclough.wordpress.com](http://www.crsimonclough.wordpress.com)

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## Blue Knob Hall Gallery

The next exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery is 'The Artist's Choice' with the Opening Night on Friday 7th December at 6.30pm.

This is an open show where artists exhibit whatever they choose, in any medium. This annual show always brings out a great variety of work and showcases the always diverse and sometimes quirky nature of art.



'Walking in the Garden' by Janifer Fraser



'The Golden Road to Samarkand' (detail) by Carol Easton

This is a great opportunity to purchase a special Christmas gift of artwork or choose from the small gift items that are available on our Centrestage. The exhibition will continue throughout the school holidays until 10th February.

The next Artists and Friends lunch will be held on Thursday 28th February at 12.30pm, and then continue on the last Thursday of each month throughout the year.

Blue Knob Hall Gallery and Cafe will remain open over the Christmas and New Year period -Thursday-Sunday 10-4pm.

We would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you out at Blue Knob in 2013.

## December double

Photographer Rachael Windress (*her work at right*) presents RAW, an exhibition reviving the traditional techniques of photography in the digital age.

Windress uses the power of the camera to create dynamic images without postproduction tools such as PhotoShop.

"The body of work on show is based on creating abstract images from within the camera," she says. "Working with different objects, people, animals, lighting and long exposure, allows me to create the image using the technology of the camera."

The exhibition at Lismore's Serpentine Community Gallery, in Bridge St, runs to 1st January 2013. All welcome, light refreshments available.

Artists of the Northern Rivers present



*Presence*, the gallery's last members' exhibition for 2012, on Friday 7th December at 7pm.

This is an unthemed exhibition and local artists have been invited to submit works of their choice. With such an open invite, the talented artists of the Northern Rivers are sure to present a selection of sensational new artworks.

Traditionally, the opening of the last Serpentine show of the year is a great night of celebration and this year will keep up the tradition.

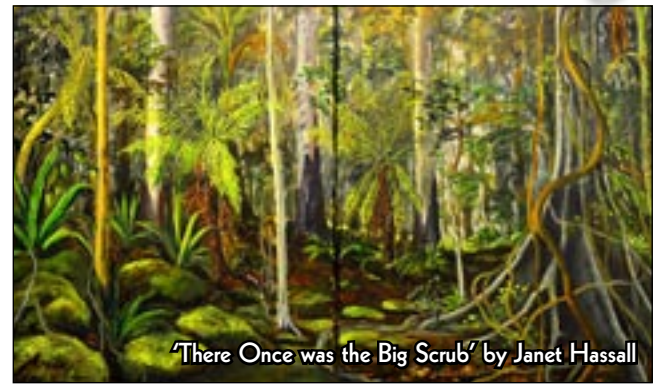
Plan a late finish with *Deep Fryer and the Crates* providing vinyl beats to dance to.

*Presence* will be on view until 31st December.



'Primal Prowl' oil on canvas by Kane Bowman

## Nimbin Artists Gallery



'There Once was the Big Scrub' by Janet Hassall

by Peter. P

It's quiet in the Nimbin Artists Gallery, some visitors, some sales, hopefully the quiet before the summer holiday rush.

Outside the days are noticeably warmer and some visitors unashamedly admit to coming in to the gallery to enjoy the air-conditioning. If that's what it takes...

The gallery attracts people from Finland, Brazil and everywhere in between. A long way to come, but they all agree it's worth it. There's even been a few from Ipswich.

And the compliments received have been universally complimentary.

How can you not rush down to see the latest work from the many talented artists who reside nearby?

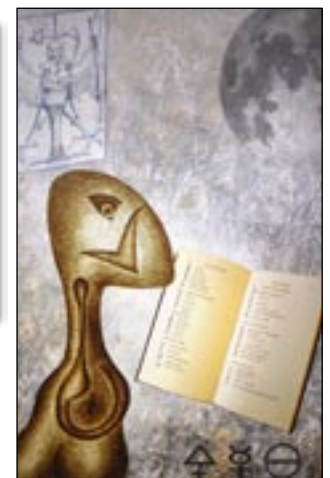
The most recent hanging saw new pieces from regular contributors, some of which surprised in their difference to previous works - subtly and some not so subtly - and there's a good supply of feltwork, ceramics, glass art, cards and more.

Good reason to come for a visit. I'll have the air-con going.



'Carry Me Away' by Shells Neville

Teapots by Francisco Alvarez



'Preparation for the Great Work' by Rob Harle

## Reflections of a refugee

by Chris Aitchison

What child doesn't love Aesop's fables? Each fable is an exciting bite-sized tale, suited to a limited attention span, and abundant in all the particulars necessary to ignite a child's imagination, including kings, queens, and talking animals.

And each tale concludes with a simple maxim that is accessible to a child's developing moral sense.

I recall as a child being stirred by the various exhortations to ethical living, and as an adult Aesop's fables still occasionally bring me inspiration and illumination. It happened just the other day.

It was the day of the AGM for a local environment group I am involved with, and the preceding week had heralded a great deal of bad news: the Kings Forest development was a step closer to being rubber-stamped;

the NSWALC had revealed its intention to search for commercial quantities of coal seam gas in an area that is walking distance from my home; and the NSW Government had opened another front in its war against the natural environment when it disclosed an intention to cut funding from the Environmental Defenders Office.

It was clear that powerful interests were shaping up against us; it wasn't going to be a fair fight.

As I imagined it, there on one side of the battle line were the corporations, with well-paid standing armies of lawyers, bureaucrats, economists, and engineers, and a mandate from their investors - a *raison d'être* - to turn a profit from the devastation of our home.

And watching closely from the command centre was the state government, standing ready, as always, to supply legislative and logistical support to the corporations'

campaigns.

On the other side was a ragtag coalition of people whose land, water, and way of life were under threat: farmers, land-holders, villagers, and environmentalists, all part-time volunteers and unpaid conscripts, and all with comparatively meagre resources. And so it was, against this backdrop, heavy with an overwhelming sense of the enormity of the challenge we faced, that I made my way to the meeting.

As I took my seat, however, a remarkable shift began in my heart. Looking around, taking in the faces of my comrades, an Aesop's fable sprang to mind. It was an old favourite, 'The Hare and the Hound, in which an amused goat herder mocks a hound that he had observed being outrun by a much smaller hare.

The humiliated hound rejoined with: "I was only running for a dinner, but he for his life."

The fable's relevance to the immediate situation wasn't clear to me at first. Were we running for our lives? Were we chasing something unattainable?



However, the meaning crystallised over the course of the afternoon, and by the time I returned home, I was bursting to share the revelation with my wife. The truth in this tale, for me, at this particular dissection of time, space, and spirit, was in the realisation that we are the hare, and they are the hound.

While I had judged the battle to be overwhelmingly weighted in favour of our foes, I had failed to account for a crucial factor, which yields us one terrible advantage: while our adversaries are merely pursuing dinner, our motivation lies in the knowledge that we fight for our very lives.

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# Young Nimbin on-screen

Everyone is invited to the screening and announcement of the prize winners of the Nimbin Youth Film Comp 2012 to be held at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on 15th December at 1pm.

The theme of the competition is *It's My Life*, featuring the stories of Nimbin youth. The films are an insight into the minds of young people; it can be educational and fun for the whole audience.

The prize pool for the Youth Connections North Coast: Nimbin Youth Film Competition 2012 has been increased due to sponsorship of the Nimbin School of Arts, Nimbin Law and many Nimbin businesses.

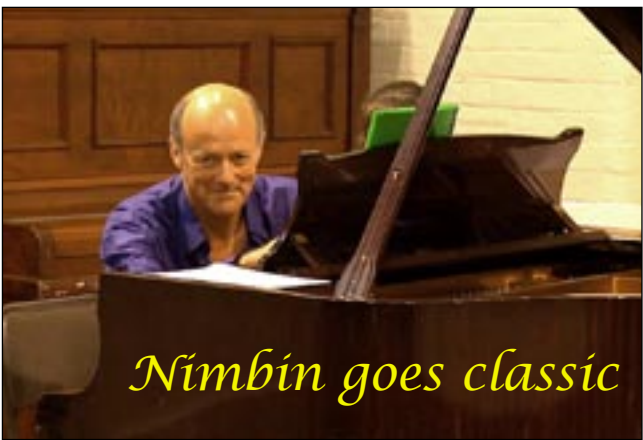
First prize is now \$300, with runners-up competing for \$100 and \$50. The winners also receive a trophy. For more info on the film comp go to [www.ycnc.com.au](http://www.ycnc.com.au)



Director Jaimie Lacher and special effects team Bohdi Star and Journey Naday-Ford review their 'shot' with workshop facilitator Paris Naday and Youth Connections worker Lisa at the first in the series of Nimbin Youth Film Workshops.

Local sponsors now include: Nimbin School of Arts, Nimbin Bush Theatre, Nimbin Pizza and Trattoria, Nimbin Law, Nimbin

Emporium, Grapevine Café, Rainbow Café and Nimbin Apothecary. For more info call Darmin on 0428-337-088.



## Nimbin goes classic

Tony Coiffet (pictured), a piano technician new to Nimbin, is organising a classical concert in Nimbin's Town Hall on Sunday 16th December from 5 to 7.30pm.

It will feature Millie Simpson on piano, the Trio Continentale – violin, piano and cello – Michael Hannan, Tony Gibson and Nicholas Routley, each piano, and Laura Hymers on oboe.

They will play the music of Faure, Debussy, Scriabine, Chopin, Satie, Reinecke and others.

Tony said, "The idea of the concert is to provide a better access to classical music and culture in our local area, for a really accessible entrance fee. Some artists are Australia-wide famous if not more."

Entrance is \$10, with refreshments available at interval. All artists are performing for free and all profits will go to the Nimbin School of Arts.

Anyone willing to film the concert is asked to contact Tony Coiffet on [pianotc@gmail.com](mailto:pianotc@gmail.com) or on 0458-647-074.



## S receives Life Sentences

S Sorresen launches his book *Life Sentences (Here & Now II)* at Cafe Cappello in Carrington Street, Lismore, this Monday, December 10, from 5.30pm.

S will sell and sign copies of his book. Wine, live music and nibbles will be supplied. Everyone with an interest in S, his books or free wine is welcome.

*Life Sentences* is a collection of S's *Here & Now* columns from *The NR Echo*.

"*Life Sentences* is the perfect toilet book," S reckons. *Life Sentences (Here & Now II)* sells for \$22.

Loren plays at the Sphinx Rock Cafe Christmas Party on 23rd December from 2pm.

Loren has a sublime voice and boundless energy, and the emotion, passion and complexity of this boundary-blurring music that spans reggae, folk, pop and roots.

Loren shines in live performance, where audiences ride the emotional wave between being captivated in reverent reflection to reckless abandon.

His music connects people from all ages and stages in life and his

commitment to grassroots gigs has seen him perform relentlessly for the past eight years, creating a groundswell of underground support across the country.

He has conducted more than 15 tours of Australia, two of New Zealand, as well as Canada and the US. Loren has sold more than 10,000 albums independently.

He has received national airplay including Triple J, and played with Bernard Fanning, Dave Mathews, John Butler, Lior, Xavier Rudd, Kate Miller-Heidke, Ash Grunwald and The Beautiful Girls.



## Loren plays the Sphinx

It's likely the pro-CSG will be defeated by sheer creativity alone, if the CSG Idol competition was anything to go by.

Judges Choice, and also Peoples Choice for best original song went to Blakboi, aka Tom Avery. Wait 'til you see the video.

The Brad Hazzard Singers category was won by David Ellimore-Collins and a brilliant group of singers, dancers and musicians from The Channon.

The Blast from the Past section was won by The Wacky Warblers from Uki, Barbara and Chris (pictured), who adapted 'Don't Cry for Me, Argentina'.



Photo: Sam Turnbull, ABC

And let's not forget the 500 people who raised the roof at the Italo Club, and kicked in for CSG-free Lismore's fighting fund.



## Folk Finale

November's The Channon Folk Club open mic saw some wonderful performances by so many accomplished musicians. There were also some great artists, new to club, including Nimbin's very own Zara Meow (pictured) and Maxx, Burri and Bob's band, Blue Mango.

The club is having a Summer holiday, but will be back in March. Keep your

eye on the *GoodTimes* and local gig guides for information next year.

In the meantime, you may wish to check out the photo gallery, on the website or Folk Club's facebook page, for just some of the many excellent performances at The Channon Tavern throughout 2012.

Bring a song, bring a verse, bring a friend, 2pm till dusk, Sunday 24th March 2013 at The Channon Folk Club Open Mic. Contact the club via email at: [thechannonfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:thechannonfolkclub@gmail.com)

## NIMBIN BOWLO



25 Sibley Street  
Phone 6689-1250

### What's On in December?

- Kids Xmas Party – Sunday 16th, Santa arrives 1pm
- Open Mic Night – Wednesday 12th, from 7pm
- Raffles – Fridays 7.30pm – Meat & veggie trays, chooks
- Trivia Quiz – Every Saturday at 7pm, bar prizes
- Courtesy Bus – Phone the bar
- Closed Mondays

### CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner Tues – Sun
  - Friday Banquets
  - Take-Aways
- Phone 6689-1473



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3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 [www.sphinxrockcafe.com](http://www.sphinxrockcafe.com)

### Sunday Gig Guide

December 2pm start

9<sup>th</sup> Barkers Vale Brothers

The Barkers Vale Brothers act is typified by cracking Banjo, harmony singing, comedy banter in between songs & high energy

16<sup>th</sup> Murray Kyle

Murray Kyle sings his sweet and meaningful songs with an undeniable feel good factor

23<sup>rd</sup> Loren

Five piece band hailing from the sunny Northern Rivers – listen & love the sounds of their progressive folk & rock

30<sup>th</sup> Romaniacs

Tunes inspired by gypsy, folk, Latin, Celtic, Spanish & Eastern roots

January

6<sup>th</sup> Jordan McRobbie & Wayfarer

Wayfarer takes audiences on a journey from slow, emotionally uplifting ballads through to stompin' high-energy roots music

## Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

### December Gigs

Thursday 6th 6.30pm  
Friday 7th 7.30pm  
Saturday 8th 6.30pm  
Sunday 9th 2.30pm

Mr Troy  
Papa Funk  
Angry Penguins  
Chris Aronsten  
XMAS PARTY

Thursday 13th 6pm  
Friday 14th 7.30pm  
Saturday 15th 6pm  
Sunday 16th 5.30pm

Fairweather Freaks  
Thorazoo  
Guy Kachel  
Sye McRichie

Thursday 20th 6pm  
Friday 21st 7.30pm  
Saturday 22nd 6.30pm  
Sunday 23rd 5.30pm

Open Mic  
Lissy Stanton Band  
Brian Watts  
Surf Report

Thursday 27th 6.30pm  
Friday 28th 7.30pm  
Saturday 29th 6pm  
Sunday 30th 7.30pm

Dave Murray  
Diana Anaid  
Azadoota NEW YEAR  
Azadoota

All Gigs are Free of Charge

### Hummingbird Bistro

Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta;  
Thurs \$10 steak 250g



# Aquarius rising – again

As the countdown begins to the end of the world as we know it, come ye all, the lame, the poor, the rich and famous, to celebrate with us our collective renewed dreams.

On Saturday 8th December, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. will launch a web site: [www.aquarius2013.nimbin.nsw.au](http://www.aquarius2013.nimbin.nsw.au) with monthly Aquarius calendar updates and information on events taking place during 2013 Aquarius anniversary year.

On Sunday 9th, The Chai Tent launches its new towering rainbow gathering hub at the Channon Market, before heading off to the Woodford Folk Festival.

On Wednesday 12th, from 12 noon, in the Nimbin Community Centre, the Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation and Nimbin Community School invite all to join a gathering, Reviving the Spirit of Community. Join in for friendship, fun, food, films, music and laughter. All welcome.

On Saturday 22nd, from 12 noon, in the Nimbin Town Hall, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation will be heralding in The Age of Aquarius with a fun event. Hear the call, come one and all. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery. The dawning is over, it's wake-up time!

The Lismore Regional Gallery will be exhibiting The Art of Building over April and May 2013 (see story p. 3).

Dr Rob Garbutt, from the Southern Cross University's Centre for Peace and Social Justice, is working with the Aquarian archives on *Aquarius and beyond: 40*, which will culminate on 23rd



and 24th May (see story at right).

Over MardiGrass and the Aquarius 40th anniversary, Harsha Prahbu and Graeme Batterbury are preparing to mount a multimedia exhibition with the photo-documentary *Rainbow Dreaming*: [www.rainbowdreaming.org](http://www.rainbowdreaming.org)

Johnny Allen and Graham Dunstan are working on Aquarius Festival storytelling projects; log into My Nimbin Aquarius Story on Facebook. There is also another Facebook site, Nimbin Aquarius Festival 1973.

Woodstock Museum founders and film-making team Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton have interviewed and filmed Nimbin over the past 10 years for their documentary creation, *Woodstock Downunder*, which covers 40 years of Nimbin hip-story. They have now developed it into an eight-part series to be shown at the Nimbin Bush Theatre during that Nimbin merry month of May.

Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. is on Facebook: Nimbin Aquarius towards 2013, and meets every Tuesday from 2pm-5pm in the Community Centre Comskool Room. President is Benny Zable, email: [aquariusnetworking@gmail.com](mailto:aquariusnetworking@gmail.com)

## Nimbin's 'seismic shift' reviewed

It was a 1970s counter-revolution that heralded a cultural, social and consciousness shift in Australia and breathed new life into a dying NSW dairy town...

Four decades on, Southern Cross University is organising *Aquarius and beyond: 40 years on*, a two-day market of ideas to reflect on the events that together became the Nimbin Aquarius Festival of May 1973.

Cultural studies lecturer Rob Garbutt, from the University's School of Arts and Social Sciences, said the Aquarius Festival was a catalyst for regional and national change.

"Organised by the Australian Union of Students, the aim of the Aquarius Festival was to celebrate alternative thinking and sustainable lifestyles to ensure the long-term survival of the Earth and its inhabitants.

"From home-birth to farming, from architecture and building construction to local markets, from eating to social relations and political activism, the Aquarius Festival provided a stimulus for alternative, counter-cultural thinking and action on a kaleidoscopic range of social and cultural practices.



Crowd in front of the Freemason's Hotel during the Aquarius Festival, 1973 Courtesy: Harry Watson Smith

"Many practices, like solar energy, multiple-occupancy communities and alternative medicine, continue today in Nimbin and across northern NSW and have been embraced in communities across the country."

*Aquarius and beyond* will take place on May 23rd and 24th at the Nimbin Town Hall. The first day will reflect on the past 40 years, while day two will have a present and future orientation.

Community members are welcome to contribute photographs, material and comments on the Facebook page.

### KEY DATES

1st February 2013 – Ideas/ Abstracts for Presentations and Expressions of Interest due

1st March 2013 – Responses to proposals

15th April 2013 – Draft program published

23rd and 24th May 2013 – *Aquarius and beyond: 40 years on* at the Nimbin Town Hall (aka Nimbin School of Arts).

For details about submitting ideas and abstracts for presentations and expressions, visit the event page: <http://sassevents.scu.edu.au/aquarius>

## Nimbin natural beekeepers

by James Creagh, photos: Woman With a Camera

### Varroa mite – not welcome



Deadly parasitic Varroa mite on the back of a honey bee.

Photo: Scott Bauer, Science Daily

Beekeepers throughout Australia were reminded recently how vulnerable we are when a cargo ship anchored near Sydney was found to have a hive of Asian bees on board. They were carrying the varroa mite.

The mite has decimated boxed hives and are particularly feral in hives throughout the world. Australia is the only continent without the varroa mite.

Australian quarantine found it in time before any of them made it to land. For more, go to: [www.abc.net.au/am/content/2012/s3639182.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2012/s3639182.htm)

### Year in review

It's been a great year for the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers with much being achieved all in less than one year.

We have been meeting monthly, organised workshops skilling up members, bulk ordering bee boxes, provided support for members to assemble their boxes, offered membership to NNIC's Food Equipment Library accessing honey extractors and other beekeeping tools.

We offer a free swarm collection service, and provide info about bees to the wider community through NGT and the Nimbin Show. Over 30 hives have been established or are in the process through the NNB group.

We picked a very good year to begin with the drier weather, it has been excellent for the bees in terms of nectar and pollen availability. It has been a long time since honey harvests have been so good in the area.

Next year we will be exploring other natural ways of keeping bees, looking at Warre hives and organising a workshop on Top Bar Hives.



James with the recovered comb from the cupboard

### Mullumbimbees Natural Beekeeping Group – Introduction to natural beekeeping workshop

In November, I ran an Introduction to Natural Beekeeping workshop at Mullum Community Gardens to an enthusiastic group that is keen to start their Mullumbimbees Natural Beekeeping Group.

Thanks to Kat and Graeme for organising the workshops, and it's great to see some of the Bimbees attending NNB meetings.

With so much interest in Mullum, I will be running a second Introduction to Natural Beekeeping at Mullum Community Gardens on the 16th December. It runs from 10am to 4.30pm, email:

[mullumbees@gmail.com](mailto:mullumbees@gmail.com) if you'd like to attend.

### Hive transfer

In late November, a group of us transferred a feral hive from a storage cupboard into a langstroth box at Lillian Rock. The whole shed is planned to be pulled down. It went well with the transferring of the honeycomb to the frames and there were few stings (see photos).

It was a good opportunity to show members how to save a hive from being destroyed. It's not always this easy, and there is never a guarantee that the bees will stay in the box.

### Mobile phone tower

Given there has been some concern in the Nimbin community about the construction a new phone tower and its possible adverse effects on bees and humans, a talk is being given at Birth and Beyond on Thursday 13th December at 6pm. Birgit Richards, a building biologist, will present health-related issues associated with electromagnetic radiation. Her particular interest is in electromagnetic field testing, after living in very close proximity to a mobile phone tower for eight years.

For the scores of people who attended Telstra's "community consultation" at the Nimbin Town Hall, this event will be a good way to hear both sides of the issue.



Sonny, James, Dylan and Jenny preparing the smoker to remove the hive

### Pest Control

At the December meeting of the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers group we looked at ways of keeping hives up off of the ground, away from cane toads that like to snack on bees.

This time of the year both the cane toads and small hive beetle are most active. Beetle traps are the way to manage the beetle, using Diatomaceous earth to reduce their numbers.

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# Mullaways director fined, then congratulated

Tony Bower, from Mullaways Medical Cannabis Co (*pictured*) was fined \$1000 in Lismore Court for some cannabis found in the famous Mullaway bus.

“It was a small amount of somebody’s personal medicine, and such a heavy fine seems very unfair,” he said.

“Everybody should be free to find the medicine that works for them and the evidence is well and truly in about the healing properties of cannabis.”

Tony said it was well-worth bringing an expert from the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Canberra to testify.

“Although he was unable to help Mullaway patients, he was helpful and supportive in post discussions after court about Mullaways TGA approval process,” Tony said.

There are now 18 States in America with legal medicinal cannabis.

“Why isn’t it legal here?” he demanded.

“When is our Government going to have a fresh look at this issue? Why are they arresting me for trying to help people who are sick and dying?”

Michael Balderstone, HEMP Embassy President, said it was appalling that Tony was so heavily fined.

“He can’t stop himself from helping



others,” he said. “We have watched him helping people for years and his medicine certainly works.

“This fine is a real disgrace. Where is a pensioner like Tony going to find \$1000? Magistrates sometimes appear to not live in the real world!”

World Aids Day, 1st December, was the third anniversary of Mullaway’s free legal medical cannabis tincture service.

It was celebrated in Nimbin with music, song, poetry and speeches attesting to his persistent and compassionate effort to reduce the suffering in the community.

His free medicine has seen him flooded with requests beyond his capacity to help, especially as his entire crop was taken by police earlier this year just as it was ready to be harvested.

He is still trying to help anyone with cancer, and can be contacted through his website: [www.mullawaysmedicalcannabis.com.au](http://www.mullawaysmedicalcannabis.com.au) or at the Nimbin Hemp Embassy on Saturdays. Phone 6689-0326.

## MardiGrass 2013

A draft D. A. has been lodged with Lismore Council to hold next year’s MardiGrass in the HEMP Embassy backyard, where there is a natural amphitheatre with plenty of space for music and the Hemp Olympix.

“We think it will be much better than trying to work around Peace Park and the new skatepark,” said Michael Balderstone. This plan includes not closing Sibley Street and starting the Sunday Rally in Peace Park.

Police and council so far support the new plan.

# HEMP HEADLINES

## USA: Colorado, Washington Pot Legalization Deals Drug War Major Blow

Colorado and Washington became the first states to legalise recreational marijuana in the prohibition era, dealing a major blow to the war on drugs. Medical marijuana was also legalised in Massachusetts, underlining long-running trends in public opinion toward more permissive attitudes on drugs.

“To put this into historical context, there is no historical context,” said Tom Angell, spokesperson for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. “It’s the first time any state has ever voted to legalise marijuana – and two of them did it.”

The votes marked a significant shift from decades of tough-on-crime policies that burned through \$1 trillion in tax dollars over 40 years, led to the arrest of 850,000 Americans for marijuana law violations in 2010 alone, and fuelled the rise of deadly drug cartels abroad.

## USA: Marijuana Decriminalization Drops Youth Crime Rates by Stunning 20% in One Year

Marijuana decriminalization – it’s one of the primary reasons why California experienced a stunning 20 percent drop in juvenile arrests in just one year, between 2010 and 2011, according to provocative new research. The San Francisco-based Centre on Juvenile and Criminal Justice identifies a new state marijuana decriminalization law that applies to juveniles, not just adults, as the driving force behind the plummeting arrest totals.

## Uruguay: New law to allow cultivation of marijuana at home, in clubs

Uruguayans will be able to grow marijuana at home or in clubs, but the state will be in charge of the trade from cultivation to sale under a government-led legalization bill presented in Congress at the end of November.

## Israel: Encouragement for use of medical marijuana

Moshe Rute, who lives at the Hadarim nursing home outside of Tel Aviv, is one of more than 10,000 patients who have official government permission to consume marijuana in Israel, a number that has swelled dramatically, up from serving just a few hundred patients in 2005.

Web links to these stories and others at [www.hempembassy.net](http://www.hempembassy.net) or tune in to the Hemp Hours on NimFM 102.3 on Fridays from midday to 2pm

# Medi-pot inquiry calls for comments

by Graham Irvine

Luke Foley, the ALP leader in the Legislative Council of NSW parliament, has tabled documents which initiate an Inquiry in the uses of medical cannabis.

This will be undertaken by a General Standing Committee of the Council, made up of representatives of the National, Liberal, ALP, Greens and Shooters parties.

The NSW Opposition says an Upper House inquiry into the medical use of marijuana

will help the debate to be dominated by evidence, instead of dogma.

The terms of reference are: to enquire and report on the uses of medical cannabis, especially:

- a) Efficacy and safety of cannabis for medical purposes;
- b) if and how cannabis should be supplied for medical use;
- c) legal implications and issues concerning the use of cannabis for medical purposes; and

d) any other related matters.

Submissions to the committee are being accepted and close on 14th February 2013. Readers are urged to make submissions.

It will only take a few politicians crossing the floor of the parliament, and medicinal cannabis could be legal as soon as next year.

For further help in writing submissions, contact Graham Irvine, email: [grairv@yahoo.com.au](mailto:grairv@yahoo.com.au) or phone 6689-1666 or contact the Hemp Embassy in Cullen Street.

# Farmers hail hemp food approval

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has announced its approval of the use of *Cannabis sativa*, with low levels of tetrahydrocannabinol, in both seed and seed oil, as a food.

Farmers hope the Australian government takes note and follows this example allowing new markets and industries to open up here.

# STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast’s longest serving covert

by Undacuva

## Undacuva shadowed!

Undacuvras recognise each other like any weirdos do. Trainspotters, hippies, thugs, stamp collectors, coppers, politicians. You can’t really explain instinctive stuff can you?

So this shabby-looking bloke has been bludging in on our bong sessions the last couple of weeks and I just knew he was Unda. What I didn’t realise was he was monitoring me.

I phoned the Boss on the secret line and he tried to laugh it off saying the Bin’s famous paranoia layer had got into me, but I knew it was more than that.

“You don’t trust me anymore Beth?” He was too friendly, which he hadn’t been to anyone in months, it was a giveaway. For years in the Force the joke has been that PIC meant police internal coverup but the latest “fundamentally flawed” report on itself made the old joke a bit too real, even for this old craggy Boss. Rumours have it, he’s even admitted to using his wife’s tincture to get a decent night’s sleep lately.

I was forced below the belt and threatened to expose the shadow, which had chips spitting out the phone earpiece in one second flat. “OK, OK. Canberra are wetting their nappies over the new American changes and they sent this fellow, against my



advice Bethany, believe me. Your reports have them thinking you’ve swapped sides. It never worried them before but now all that hippy stuff is looking dangerously like the arguments that won the day in the Obama election.”

“We had Gillard and Roxon convinced that we’re actually winning the war, but your bloody reports have been getting quite an airing, and some of the PM’s advisors are sympathetic. The ongoing police corruption and the Catholic scandals have unda-mined our cred so much, Ms Roxon in particular is not taking the advice as

well as she used to.”

And deputy leader Swan’s stories when he returned from Mexico City had everyone wondering just who they should listen to. Apparently he wasn’t in the restaurant when the cartel rolled eight freshly decapitated gory heads through the front door. But two of his advisers were, and both had to be sedated and sent home. It was just another day in MC but not for the sheltered Aussie boys, neither of whom had ever seen a dead body before.

“The story slowly leaked around Canberra and finally reached the Health Minister’s ears. She decided to look a little closer, and somewhere in the piles of reports she came across your writing, Beth. You seemed so sympathetic to ‘weedworld’ as she called it. So in truth, it was her office that had you tailed.”

I gave the slob from the big smoke the slip and headed out of town for

Pipe’s hippy camp where many of them seem convinced weed is what the Mayan Calendar is all about and the walls of prohibition are coming down like Berlin’s later this month. Soon the magic herb will be freely available to all and sundry they think. Poor hippies. They really do believe their pot can save the world.

And the dry season is challenging for the tribe, though their swimming hole in the rainforest looks as fresh and beautiful as ever. They’ve been carting water to their patches for two months and the girls looked like they’ve been working out.

**HipiLeaks:** Sydney Nov 2012. The new FOD (Fleet Of Drones) is to only spend time searching for cannabis crops when the ocean is too murky to see sharks. Priority must be given to swimmers’ safety. In the last decade, 35 people have died in shark attacks but none from cannabis.

Do you want to re-legalise & regulate Cannabis as they have in Washington State and Colorado?

**VOTE 1 HEMP**

Authorised by James Maylan, 11 Pine Street, North Lismore, NSW 2480 on behalf of the Australian HEMP Party

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